



FACT SHEET—Elections 2012

Running for U.S. Congress (NC Residents)

1.) How do individuals get on the ballot for a political party primary election?

(§163-106, 107, 108)

- Candidates must file a notice of candidacy with the State Board of Elections and pay a filing fee of 1% of the annual salary of the office sought, to the SBE. Notice of candidacy forms may be obtained at the SBE office prior to the date on which candidates may commence filing. Candidates who have properly filed their notice of candidacy and paid the filing fee will have their names certified by the chairman of the State Board of Elections to the Secretary of State three days after the expiration of the filing period.
- Candidates must be a registered voter of the same political party in which he or she intends to file (an individual changing party affiliation must do it 90 days prior to the date the candidate files).
- All candidates must, at the time of filing a notice of candidacy, file a certificate signed by the chairman or the director of the county board of elections in which they are registered to vote, stating the party with which the person is affiliated and that the person has not changed affiliation in the past 90 days.
- A candidate **may not** file for more than one office.
- In addition, the Notice of Candidacy will inquire about any previous felony convictions of the candidate and will require a further report on them.
- A filed primary candidate remaining unopposed at the time filing closes will be certified as their party nominee without the need for a primary.
- The winners of the party primaries or certified nominees will be listed on the General Election ballot as the nominee of their party for the office they filed for.

2.) When is the filing period? (§163-106(c))

- Begins - 12:00 Noon **Monday, February 13, 2012.**
- Ends - 12:00 Noon **Friday, February 29, 2012.**

3.) If a candidate wishes to run unaffiliated, they need to review GS 163-122 and the fact sheet on running as an unaffiliated candidate. If the candidate wishes to run as

a write-in, they need to review GS 163-123 and the fact sheet on running as a write-in candidate.

4.) When are the elections? (§163-1)

- **Primary** - The Tuesday after the first Monday in May preceding the general election. **Tuesday, May 8, 2012.**
- **Second Primary** – If a Second Primary is required it shall be ordered by the appropriate board of elections, State or county, seven weeks after the first Primary—**June 26, 2012.**
- No Third Primary is permitted.
- **General Election** - The Tuesday after the first Monday in November. **Tuesday, November 6, 2012.**

4.) What are the qualifications for U.S. Congress? (N.C. Const. Art. 6 Sec. 6; U.S. Const. Art. 1 Sec. 2 and Sec. 3)

- **Senate** - An individual must be at least 30 years of age, a citizen of the U.S. for 9 years, and a resident of the state for which he/she will be elected.
- **House** - An individual must be at least 25 years of age, a citizen of the U.S. for 7 years, and a resident of the state for which he/she will be elected. An individual running for the U.S. House does not have to be a resident of the Congressional District they are seeking election from.
- Individuals running for the House or Senate must be qualified, registered voters in North Carolina.
- Terms - *Senate* (6 years) - *House* (2 years)

5.) What are the Campaign Reporting requirements? (§163-278.30)

- If you plan to be a 2012 candidate for a federal office, such as the office of United States Senate or member of the United States House of Representatives, you or your campaign treasurer, need to contact the Federal Election Commission for filing requirements. Their Toll Free Number is 1-800-424-9530.
- As a candidate for federal office, you are responsible to comply with the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, P.L. 92-225, as amended (T.2, U.S.C. Section 439).
- The State Board of Elections Campaign Reporting Office serves as the State depository for the receipt of copies of reports filed by members of the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives with the Federal Election Commission in Washington, D.C. This office retains copies of the reports for a two-year period after the election. After that time, they are sent to Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, State Records Section where they are then microfilmed.